

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A sheet separating apparatus for a fusing unit comprising:
a separating claw rotatably disposed toward a discharging side of a heating roller; for separating a sheet from the heating roller; and, a substantially arcuate front end of the separating claw having a top surface, a bottom surface, and rounded corners, and a chamfered contact portion that angles downwardly between the top and bottom surfaces; and
a contact spring pivoting the separating claw so that a the front end of the separating claw is in contact with the heating roller with a predetermined substantially constant pressure;
~~the front end of the separating claw having rounded corners.~~
2. (canceled)
3. (original) The sheet separating apparatus of claim 1, wherein the separating claw includes metallic material.
4. (original) The sheet separating apparatus of claim 1, wherein the separating claw includes stainless steel.
5. (original) The sheet separating apparatus of claim 1, wherein the separating claw is formed by a press.
6. (currently amended) A method for discharging a sheet from a fusing unit, the method comprising:
operating a separating claw having a substantially arcuate front end with a top surface, a bottom surface, and rounded corners, and a chamfered contact portion that angles downwardly between the top and bottom surfaces, and being ~~which is~~ rotatably disposed toward a discharging

side of a heating roller ~~and whose front end has rounded corners~~, to separate a sheet from the heating roller; and

using a contact spring to pivot the separating claw so that a front end of the separating claw is in contact with the heating roller with a predetermined substantially constant pressure.

7. (canceled)

8. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the separating claw includes metallic material.

9. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the separating claw includes stainless steel.

10. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the separating claw is formed by a press.

11. (new) A sheet separating apparatus for a fusing unit comprising:
a separating claw rotatably disposed toward a discharging side of a heating roller for separating a sheet from the heating roller, a substantially arcuate front end of the separating claw having a top surface, a bottom surface, and rounded corners, and a chamfered contact portion that extends downwardly at an angle of about 45° between the top and bottom surfaces; and
a contact spring pivoting the separating claw so that the front end of the separating claw contacts the heating roller with a predetermined substantially constant pressure.

12. (new) The sheet separating apparatus of claim 11, wherein the separating claw includes metallic material.

13. (new) The sheet separating apparatus of claim 11, wherein the separating claw includes stainless steel.

14. (new) The sheet separating apparatus of claim 11, wherein the separating claw is formed by a press.